"It Was the Calm and Silent Night"





Alfred Domett's

Christmas Hymn

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A
Christmas Hymn

"It was the Calm and Silent Night"

A Christmas Hymn

BY

ALFRED DOMETT

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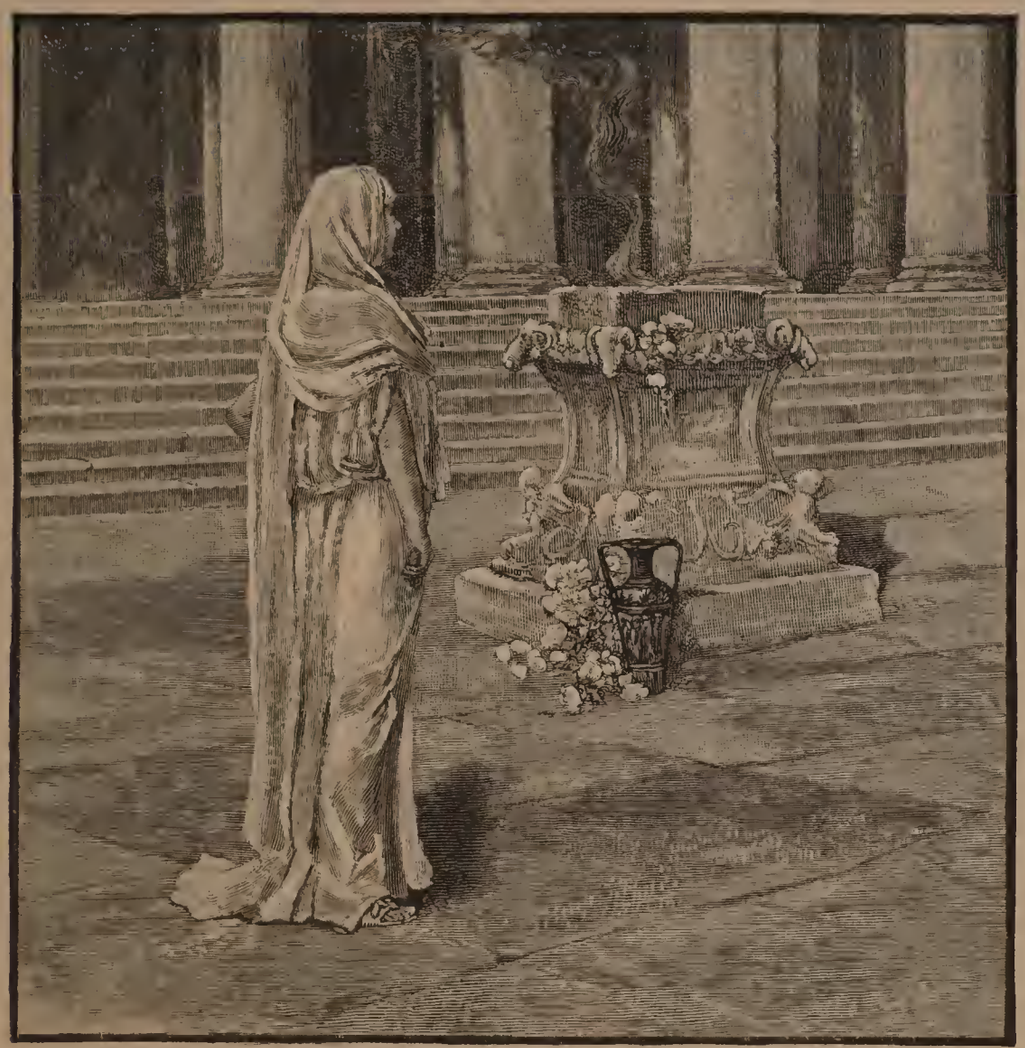
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It was the calm and silent night:
Seven hundred years and fifty-three
Had Rome been growing up to might,
And now was queen of land and sea.




NO SOVND WAS HEARD
OF CLASHING WARS;
PEACE BROODED O'ER
THE
HVSHED DOMAIN;



Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars
Held undisturbed their ancient reign,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!



'T was in the calm and silent night!
The senator of haughty Rome
Impatient urged his chariot's flight,
From lordly revel rolling home.



Triumphal arches gleaming swell

His breast with thoughts of boundless sway;



What recked the ROMAN what befell
A paltry province far away,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!



Within that province far away
Went plodding home a weary boor:
A streak of light before him lay,
Fall'n through a half-shut stable door
Across his path. He passed; for nought
Told what was going on within:
How keen the stars! his only thought;
The air how calm and cold and thin,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!




O STRANGE INDIFFERENCE! – LOW AND HIGH
DROWSED OVER COMMON
– JOYS AND CARES!



The earth was still — but knew not why;
The world was listening — unawares!
How calm a moment may precede
One that shall thrill the world for ever!
To that still moment none would heed
Man's doom was linked no more to sever,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!



It is the calm and solemn night!



A thousand bells
ring out.
and throw
Their joyous peals abroad,
and smile
The darkness, charmed and holy now! -



The night that erst no name had worn,
To it a happy name is given;



For in that stable lay new-born
The peaceful Prince of Earth and Heaven,
In the solemn midnight
Centuries ago!

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